

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EB/OA/AN:JBMAGNOR:TP

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EUR/WE - E. BEIGEL

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TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, FR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - WORLD AIRWAYS CHARTER PROGRAM

1. AS EMBASSY MAY BE AWARE, WORLD AIRWAYS ON BEHALF OF INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL SERVICES INC., OF CHICAGO APPLIED TO FRENCH AUTHORITIES ON JUNE 4, FOR PROGRAM OF 16 US/LONDON/ PARIS/VIENNA/US FLIGHTS. FIRST FLIGHT SCHEDULED DEPART US SEPTEMBER 15. WE UNDERSTAND FRENCH AUTHORITIES HAVE NOT OFFICIALLY ACTED ON WORLD APPLICATION ALTHOUGH WORLD REPORTS IT HAS HEARD INFORMALLY THAT FRENCH UNHAPPY WITH WHAT THEY REGARD AS FIFTH FREEDOM CHARACTER OF PROGRAM AND MAY NOT GRANT APPROVAL. BRITISH AND AUSTRIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE ALREADY GRANTED NECESSARY APPROVAL FOR LONDON AND VIENNA PORTIONS OF ITINERARY.

2. FRENCH INACTION ON WORLD APPLICATION WHICH HAS BEEN
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BEFORE THEM FOR OVER THREE MONTHS HAS BECOME AN OBVIOUS

SOURCE OF CONCERN GIVEN THE LARGE NUMBER OF PASSENGERS INVOLVED ON THE 16 FLIGHTS. IN FACT CAB CHAIRMAN ROBSON RAISED QUESTION OF WORLD PROGRAM WITH CAVAILLE AND ABRAHAM DURING THEIR CALL ON HIM ON SEPTEMBER 9 AND

AND REQUESTED FAVORABLE FRENCH CONSIDERATION OF THE WORLD APPLICATION. CAVAILLE AND ABRAHAM DID NOT REACT. AN EVEN GREATER SOURCE OF CONCERN NOW IS THE POSSIBILITY OF AN ELEVENTH HOUR FRENCH REFUSAL AND RESULTING AND COMPLETELY UNNECESSARY INCONVENIENCE AND HARDSHIP TO THE MORE THAN THREE THOUSAND PASSENGERS WHO HAD PLANNED AND BUDGETED THEIR TRIPS MANY MONTHS AGO.

3. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO APPROACH APPROPRIATE FRENCH OFFICIALS SOONEST TO RESOLVE DIFFICULTY DRAWING AT EMBASSY'S DISCRETION AS NECESSARY ON FOLLOWING POINTS AND/OR ANY OTHERS EMBASSY CONSIDERS HELPFUL.

(1) WORLD AIRWAYS APPLIED FOR 16 FLIGHT US/LONDON/PARIS/VIENNA/US CHARTER PROGRAM ON JUNE 4 - OVER 3 MONTHS AGO; (2) BRITISH AND AUSTRIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE GIVEN NECESSARY APPROVAL FOR THE APPLICABLE PORTIONS OF THE WORLD PROGRAM AND DID SO SOME TIME AGO; (3) THE FRENCH AUTHORITIES HOWEVER, HAVE NOT GIVEN THEIR APPROVAL FOR THE PARIS PORTION OF THE ITINERARY; (4) THE FRENCH DELAY IN THIS CONNECTION HAS CREATED AN AWKWARD SITUATION SINCE THE FIRST OF THE 16 FLIGHTS IS SCHEDULED TO DEPART THE US ON SEPTEMBER 15; (5) WE WOULD HOPE THEREFORE THAT THE FRENCH AUTHORITIES WILL RENDER A FAVORABLE DECISION WITH REGARD TO THE WORLD PROGRAM THEREBY ENABLING OVER THREE THOUSAND OFF-SEASON TOURISTS TO VISIT FRANCE DURING THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS; AND (6) (IN THE EVENT OF FRENCH REJECTION OF THE PROGRAM) NOTWITHSTANDING FRENCH POLICY WITH REGARD TO THIS TYPE OF CHARTER WHICH WE LOOK FORWARD TO DISCUSSING WITH YOU IN THE NEAR FUTURE, WE WOULD NEVERTHELESS HOPE THE FRENCH AUTHORITIES WOULD URGENTLY RECONSIDER THIS DECISION. (7) COMING AS IT DOES AT THE LAST MINUTE FRENCH REJECTION OF THE WORLD PROGRAM WILL CAUSE INCONVENIENCE, AND HARDSHIP TO AND RESENTMENT AMONG THE PASSENGERS WHO HAVE PLANNED AND COMMITTED FUNDS TO THEIR TRIPS MANY MONTHS AGO.

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